

# **OTI DAI-SWIFT PROJECT**

## **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

For the period April 1--June 30, 2000

The DAI SWIFT project began with the September 29, 1998 signing of *Contract AOT-I-01-98-00199-00*, an Indefinite Quantities Contract (IQC), between USAID-Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) and Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI). Since then there has been an initial Task Order and eight subsequent modifications. The current DAI-SWIFT contract runs through December 31, 2000.

### **I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### A. Background

The economic crisis in Indonesia in 1997 and the resultant political and social upheavals in 1998 made it evident that fundamental governance problems lay at the root of these serious problems. However, a general atmosphere of willingness by the Indonesians to reform political systems also arose, and USAID decided to support and enhance this opportunity for meaningful, peaceful reform via an OTI project.

The OTI undertaking in Indonesia was launched in mid-1998. Its overall objective is to provide impartial and useful assistance and information to Indonesians so that informed decisions regarding the processes of political change can be made. The initial focus, up through the July 1999 general election, sponsored NGOs and other organizations in election-related activities, so that the election could be as democratic and successful as possible. After that major event was over, OTI developed a new portfolio, defining the post-election assistance, which contained the following five sectors:

- Promoting responsible media
- Civic education
- Conflict prevention and reconciliation
- Socialization of the election results
- Anti-corruption/transparency/good governance

In the plenary team-building session held in January 2000, it was decided that each regional office should emphasize those sectors and programs that are the most relevant for their areas or constituents. But one type of program that proved successful and relevant in all the project areas was that of parliament watch/training. It was also decided in that session that OTI should now concentrate its efforts on the areas of critical turmoil in the archipelago (such as Maluku, Aceh, Irian Jaya, West Timor, and Central Sulawesi). Thus

the project is now sponsoring off-Java activities in these geographoical areas, and anywhere else that urgently needs the project's assistance in the future.

Political events also changed the configuration of the project. The September 1999 referendum in East Timor, the cataclysmic aftermath and Indonesia's subsequent jurisdictional release of that province caused OTI to early on provide assistance to the devastated new country. A regional office was opened up in Dili, East Timor in December 1999, and it is now fully staffed and operational.

The "Joint Understanding on Humanitarian Pause for Aceh" signed by the Indonesian government and the separatist fighting faction in the war-torn province of Aceh (which took effect in early June 2000) presented the opportunity for OTI to achieve meaningful work there. Therefore, a 2-person sub-regional OTI office was opened up in Banda Aceh in mid-May 2000.

#### B. DAI SWIFT Project Funding

The current provision of contract funds for the DAI SWIFT project is as follows:

**TABLE 1**

<b>DAI SWIFT CONTRACT FUNDING (US \$)</b>		
<b><u>Contract Document</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Date</u></b>	<b><u>Funds Obligated</u></b>
Task Order #1	Sept. 30, 1998	2,514,925
Modification 1	Oct. 26, 1998	36,585
Modification 2	Jan. 14, 1999	729,245
Modification 3	Feb. 1, 1999	2,919,280
Modification 4	May 25, 1999	4,955,813
Modification 5	Sept. 27, 1999	2,142,428
Modification 6	February 4, 2000	8,970,213
Modification 8	June 22, 2000	15,000,001
<b>Total Ceiling Price</b>		<b>\$37,268,490</b>

Modification 7 served purely an administrative function to add incremental funding to fully fund the Task Order to the approved level of \$22,268,489, before Modification 8 could be approved.

Modification 8, which revised the Scope of Work to expand the program in East Timor, added PTG funding and provided funds for a special TDY assignment in Aceh was signed on June 22, 2000.

## **II. PROJECT OPERATIONS**

The highlights of the overall operations of this reporting period (April-June 2000) will be described first in this section, followed by descriptions of the operations in the individual regional offices of DAI SWIFT.

### **A. Overall Operations**

#### **1. Information systems**

When the OTI-SWIFT East Timor office moved to its new quarters in April 2000, the Jakarta technician traveled to Dili to reinstall the system at the new office. This was successfully done, though it still used the expensive and slower satellite communication link via Australia. The technician is presently working in Dili again, this time to convert the LAN system to use the existing UN setup. This will render the East Timor LAN system more efficient and cheaper.

The “Technical Assistance Management Information System” (TAMIS) that was tailor-made for DAI SWIFT also has been working well and provides useful instantaneous project data. A portion of one of the many available views of the TAMIS system is presented as Appendix I; this particular view lists each DAI SWIFT grantee (inclusive of East Timor grants) through the end of June 30, 2000, and the date and amounts of the approved grants.

The DAI/Bethesda Information Specialist also visited the East Timor regional office for two weeks to help them set up the TAMIS there and to provide needed training to the personnel at that office.

#### **2. Conferences**

A planning meeting of Jakarta OTI and DAI officers with the East Timor OTI and DAI officers was held in Bali on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2000. The long-term program portfolio for that office was developed in those meetings.

### 3. Short-term project support

DAI SWIFT and OTI continued to benefit from very good home office support. These included:

- Umesh Mally (18 March-4 June) -- DAI consultant provided procurement and shipping services to the East Timor project
- Tanya Torres (22 April-7 May)--DAI consultant provided TAMIS and computer training to the East Timor project
- Chris Phillips (16 May-3 June)--The OTI-Washington Director reviewed all the regional offices and their accomplishments, inclusive of the East Timor office
- James Lehman (16 May-3 June)-- The OTI-Washington COTR reviewed all the regional offices and their accomplishments, inclusive of the East Timor office
- Bruce Spake (25 May-8 June)--DAI-Bethesda Project Manager reviewed and provided assistance to the East Timor, Jakarta, Medan and Aceh regional offices
- Thomas Stukel (15 June-18 July)--Special consultant to OTI to assist in the development of the 2001 strategy for Indonesia and East Timor

### 4. Expansion into Aceh

Building on the OTI-sponsored Aceh Assessment Team's February 2000 report and the "Humanitarian Pause" signed by the GOI and GAM (the separatist faction of Aceh), OTI-SWIFT hired two Acehnese personnel and set up a sub-regional office in Banda Aceh (the capital city of that province) in mid-May. With that office in place, OTI is strategically positioned to provide the much-needed assistance to that strife-torn province. In addition, Dr. Bruce Harker will be mobilized in early July to perform a three-month assignment as special consultant for Aceh and other areas of critical turmoil in Indonesia.

### 5. Financial Performance

The financial data from official invoicing for the project is only available up through May 2000, because of the usual lag in invoicing. As seen in Appendix II, a total of 37% of the total DAI SWIFT budget of \$37,268,940 has been spent and invoiced through the end of May 2000 (this is less than the percentage spent reported in the last quarterly report due to the infusion of \$15 million in additional funds via Modification 8). Of that, 36% of the grants budget has been invoiced, compared to 50% of the Indonesia operations budget and 15.8% of the East Timor operations budget. The costs for the East Timor operations have stabilized in the last two months. The costs for the Indonesia operations decreased significantly to an average of \$182,000 in the last two months, compared to the average of \$241,000 during the previous quarter. The data shows a relatively low ratio of operations costs to grants invoiced (4,443,754/9,462,345) of 1: 2.1.

#### B. Jakarta Regional Office Operations

There were a few personnel changes in the quarter. Ms. Fajar Yani was promoted from receptionist to Accounting Clerk; Ms. Very Noveria was hired as Receptionist/Secretary to take her place. Laurie Pierce, the Surabaya Regional Program Manager, was permanently transferred to the Jakarta office to take up the position of Country Program Manager. She will work full-time on OTI programming for the eastern islands of Indonesia.

As seen in Appendices III, IV and V, to date the Jakarta regional office has awarded a total of 156 grants with a value of \$6,729,180 as of the end of the reporting period. Of this amount, \$4,244,186 has been duly disbursed, or 63% of total grants awarded.

*[ Please note that some data for previous quarters in Appendices III, IV and V have changed in this report. This is due to previously unrecorded grants executed by the home office now being recorded, and also the disbursements for some grants being made by multiple regional offices. The disbursements therefore had to be divided up between the regional offices involved.]*

#### C. Medan Regional Office Operations

Several staffing changes occurred during the reporting period. Sabastian Saragih, the Program Development Specialist, resigned from the project in mid-April and was replaced in mid-May by Syarizal Moies. Also two consultant program officers were hired, Mr. Bukhari Daud and Ms. Evi Narti. The latter two consultants are working out of the new sub-regional OTI-SWIFT office located at the Kuala Tripa Hotel in Banda Aceh. This sub-regional office is managed by the Medan team.

Eleven new grants were signed during the quarter, bringing the total number of MOUs to 82, with a total value of \$1,823,287. Total grant disbursements have reached \$1,246,870 or 68% of total grants approved.

#### D. Surabaya Regional Office Operations

With the relocation of Laurie Pierce to the Jakarta office, this regional office's operations and implementation activities will be jointly managed, from Jakarta, by Gerald Becker, Erika Kirwen and Laurie Pierce. They will each rotate into the Surabaya office two days every three weeks. The grants program for Surabaya will still be supervised wholly by Laurie Pierce.

Due to this transfer of personnel, a desktop computer and a laptop computer were both sent to the Jakarta office for use by personnel there.

At the end of the reporting period a total of 84 grants valued at \$1,760,008 had been awarded. Disbursement of the grants has reached \$1,251,357 or 71% of the total grants awarded.

#### E. East Timor Regional Office Operations

The OTI-SWIFT team moved into their new office in early April. It is very spacious, with 12 rooms that can accommodate more than 16 professional staff. It also has ample parking and storage areas, and is in a very secure location. The LAN system from the old office was incorporated into the new office by the Jakarta SWIFT technician.

The guest house is filled to capacity with OTI-SWIFT team members. The renovation of the additional two staff houses is nearly completed, and it is expected that the OTI Country Director and the DAI Regional Program Manager will move into these houses in early July 2000.

A steady flow of TDY support from OTI Washington and from OTI/SWIFT-Indonesia assisted this regional office to achieve amazing programmatic and implementation accomplishments during the period. This included Mr. Neil Mozer, who provided services on a 3 month contract as Deputy Regional Program Manager. He will complete his assignment in mid-July.

The bank account at the Banco Nacional Ultramarino has been working out well, as also has the account at ANZ Bank, Darwin. The former is especially useful for obtaining the large amounts of cash needed for the TEP program.

The finance department is almost caught up with backlogs that existed since the staff shortage during the early months of the project here. Ninety percent of the backlog is

now completed. The grant managers have been updating the grant data into the TAMIS, and approximately 85% of this has been completed. A comprehensive office/guest house inventory is also near completion, and will be entered into the TAMIS also.

Most procurement for the office and grants was performed in Darwin by another TDYer, Mr. Umesh Mally. His assignment ended in late May, and the project is in negotiation with an agent in Darwin to perform the required procurement, tracking and packaging functions.

The pace of this regional office slacked off compared to the record pace of the previous quarter, but still a respectable 16 grants were awarded during this quarter, bringing the total to 97 grants totaling \$5,364,088 (refer Appendices III and IV). The finance officers worked very hard during the period to reduce the backlog of unrecorded receipts. Recorded disbursements are now being appropriately recorded and a very large amount of disbursement of \$2,452,048 was recorded in the quarter (refer Appendix V), bringing total disbursements to \$2,962,790, or a respectable 55% of the total grants awarded.

### **III. GRANT ACTIVITIES**

There was a great surge of production during the last quarter, with all the Indonesian regional offices reporting greater numbers of grants awarded than the previous quarter, and also much higher disbursements. The 53 grants awarded in the quarter is the second largest total ever on the project, and the quarterly disbursements of \$986,842 were much higher than the previous quarter (refer Appendices III and V). In East Timor, the grant production returned to a more normal level, with 16 grants during the quarter. The phasing out of the TEP program accounts for this decrease in grants. The accounting for past receipts in East Timor also accounts for the huge jump in disbursements in the quarter.

This brought the total number of grants to 419 as of the end of the quarter, and the total value of grants awarded has reached \$15,676,563. The total disbursement of \$9,705,204 (refer Appendix V) represents 61% of the total value of grants awarded, an 8% increase over the last quarter.

#### **A. Jakarta Grant Activities**

This was a very productive quarter for the Jakarta regional office. There were great improvements in all categories of grant awards and implementation. The number of grants awarded, 28, was almost a record amount, and was six more than the previous quarter's awards (refer Appendix III). The value of the awards, (\$1.37 million) was also a near record, and almost \$400,000 more than the previous quarter (refer Appendix IV).

Additionally, grant disbursements, at \$619,188, nearly doubled as compared to the previous quarter (refer Appendix V).

In this second quarter of 2000, Jakarta's grants have been focused on several main themes: civil/military issues, women's issues, conflict prevention/resolution, and law and the environment.

In the area of civil/military issues, during this quarter a group of research grants concerning the history of the TNI's territorial command began all across Indonesia. The four implementing organizations met together in Jakarta with OTI and DAI staff to help design and decide on a similar research strategy, including a core set of questions to use in their field research. This meeting was organized by OTI so that OTI could collect similar data from all of the research locations, which consist of Jakarta, West Java, East Java, Bali, East Nusatenggara (NTT), and West Nusatenggara (NTB). These research grants will continue for six to seven months each. In addition, there are several other civil/military grants that began this quarter. One activity, carried out by a university in Sulawesi, sponsored a series of seminars to address the key issues of redefining, repositioning, and realizing the proper role of the military in Sulawesi society. Another activity, sponsored by an East Java-based NGO involved a two-day seminar regarding the military and civil/military relations within the Malang Regency. The seminar's topic, "Improving Civil-Military Relations in Order to Achieve a Fully Democratic and Just Society", was attended by approximately 200 people.

In this quarter, two grants related to women's issues were approved and implemented. The first one, sponsored by ICWIP (Indonesian Center for Women in Politics), was to organize a series of trainings and trainings-of-trainers. The goal of the training was to give organizations the tools (modules and training guidelines) to teach women how to effectively understand and participate in politics, and to empower women so that they understand that there are ways for them to address the concerns or issues in their own communities. There was an initial regional training of 300 trainers for women who are leaders and activists from women's organizations, non-governmental organizations and universities. The trainers then expanded the training into their own respective geographic areas of Irian Jaya, South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, East Sulawesi, East Kalimantan, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, and West Nusa Tenggara, impacting at least 3,000 additional women. A second activity funded this quarter also targeted grass-roots women through an organization called PPSW, Women Resources Development Center. PPSW conducted a Civic Education and Advocacy Training for approximately 35 grassroots women leaders from Jakarta, West Java, Riau and West Kalimantan. The attendees of the training received advocacy skills training on how to approach, influence, and work with decision-makers in their communities. These attendees will share the training modules with at least 20 other NGOs, which will reach approximately 4,000 members of other women's groups.

Near the end of the quarter, DAI and OTI, through two different grants, were able to work in very current and difficult conflict areas. The first activity, working with AJI (the



Association of Independent Journalists) carried out a rapid assessment in the Palu/Poso region of Central Sulawesi to determine the level to which local media is playing a role in fuelling the religious/ethnic conflict there, and what measures can be taken by indigenous media to improve their capability to disperse accurate and balanced news and information to local populations. This assessment analyzed and provided recommendations on various media (print, radio, t.v., internet). The team met with non-media organizations, including NGOs and local government officials, to assess the level to which different groups in society are communicating and playing a role in disseminating information. This assessment has led to another follow-up trip to the region, and has resulted in several follow-on grant activities which may help to diffuse the violence and fear currently growing in Central Sulawesi.

For the other conflict-focused activity, OTI and DAI worked with Catholic Relief Services, Jakarta to support an Indonesian and East Timor delegation to a peacebuilding training in the Philippines. The grant covered transportation for 9 Indonesians and 8 East Timorese to participate in a Peace Building Training and Education for Conflict Transformation in Davao City, Mindanao Island, the Republic of the Philippines. Trainees included a cadre of individuals who are currently working on conflict issues in Indonesia and East Timor. At the training, these individuals interacted with conflict managers, intellectuals, and professionals from Southeast Asia and abroad.

One additional grant that began this quarter which has had a relatively high national impact is Kelompok Kerja 619, an organization that is designing and hosting a series of live talk shows on prime-time Indonesian TPI Television. The objectives of the talk shows are to help the public become better informed of, and gain the tools to become more critical of major public concerns, especially about the relationship between law and the environment. The series of thirteen shows, aired each Monday night, covers the following major themes: (1) Conflict resolution and prevention, as well as potential environmental conflict under Indonesia's new system of regional autonomy; (2) Transparency and people's participation in environmental public policy decision making; (3) Legal culture in Indonesia: enforcement and compliance in the area of environmental law. Indirect beneficiaries of the talk shows include a possible 35,000,000 television viewers as TPI is one of 6 major TV networks serving a total Indonesian population of 210 million.

## B. Medan Grant Activities

The Medan regional office also increased grant production, and especially disbursement, in the last quarter. Eleven MOUs were executed versus nine the previous quarter; these eleven grants were worth \$309,815 (refer Appendices III and IV). But the disbursements increased by 50% during the quarter, attaining a level of \$177,097 (refer Appendix V).

During the second quarter of 2000 USAID/OTI Medan focussed its activities in two distinct areas. The first was to develop and implement good governance grants in all of the Sumatran provinces except Aceh. Secondly, in Aceh itself, OTI staff concentrated on supporting the initial implementation of the "Humanitarian Pause" by setting up a temporary presence in the provincial capital and by implementing two grants there. In addition OTI Medan and Banda Aceh staff hosted three important delegations during the quarter. Visitors included Chris Phillips and Jim Lehman from OTI Washington, the US Ambassador Robert Gelbard from Jakarta and the USAID Assistant Administrator Bob Randolph for Asia and the Near East.

### *New Sumatra Grants*

OTI Medan finalized and began the implementation of two grants for the training of village leaders, in Bengkulu and Lampung provinces. Each of these were both modeled on and improvements of the curriculum developed by YAMKI, an OTI Medan grantee which implemented a similar program in North Sumatra in late 1999 and early 2000. These new grants also brought approximately 300 participants together in a series of workshops that focussed both on the general principles of democracy, transparency, accountability and relations with constituents, and on the more technical issues of bottom up development planning and budgeting and designing revenue enhancement schemes. Unfortunately, the vast numbers of village leaders in Indonesia make it impossible for more than a limited percentage to attend these workshops. In the next quarter OTI Medan hopes to deliver the benefits of these trainings to that majority, perhaps through the publication of a manual or other mechanism.

OTI expanded its program of technical assistance to district level parliaments through the finalization of two new grants in Lampung and Jambi provinces. These also built on previous OTI Medan experience with parliament strengthening in North Sumatra, but contained a new mechanism in addition to the traditional workshop structure. To provide more responsive, less formal assistance to MPs, the two grantees identified and assigned consultants expert in economics, development planning, political science and social welfare to work within the local parliaments themselves. While their focus is still on the technical needs expressed by the MPs, e.g. the drafting of laws and budgets, the application of the decentralization laws, etc, OTI Medan is looking forward to the completion of the grants to be able to evaluate the relative effectiveness of the two approaches.

The new village leader and parliament strengthening grants were a direct result of OTI Medan's policy to invite potential grantees as observers of grants already in progress to stimulate the consideration of similar possibilities in their home areas.

OTI Medan also did two grants in North Sumatra specifically related to the selection of local executives by either district or urban parliaments, where the grantees had in large part been motivated by the accusations of bribery in selection of the mayor of Medan. These were a combined effort to produce polling data on public opinions about the causes

and effects of “money politics” which then became one of the issues discussed in three live local radio talk-shows held in key cities in the province.

In a more experimental mode, OTI Medan finalized a grant with a new organization representing a consortium of NGOs that had published a parliament watch bulletin under a 1999 grant, and the largest daily newspaper in Medan. The objective of this grant is to publish a weekly political tabloid that would in the end be commercially viable. OTI support is in the form of decreasing subsidies as the distribution mechanism of the tabloid transitions from a free insert within the newspaper to an independent “for sale” publication.

In response to several bomb attacks on Christian churches in Medan, OTI also supported a quickly organized dialogue between Christian, Muslim and Buddhist grass roots leaders. The meeting focussed on the goals of reminding the participants of the strong traditional ties between religions in North Sumatra, the likelihood that the bombings were perpetrated by “provocateurs” and the need for messages of restraint to be transmitted through local religious institutions.

### *Aceh*

With the announcement of the *Joint Understanding on Humanitarian Pause* for Aceh, and after consultation with OTI and DAI Jakarta and Washington, OTI Medan established a sub-regional office in Banda Aceh, the provincial capital, in order to be ready to provide support for the implementation of the Pause. This proved to be crucial to the ability of the two committees defined in the Pause Agreement (Security Modalities and Humanitarian Action) and their respective Monitoring Teams to become operational, as no other local or international donors were prepared to provide immediate funding. Through a grant to the UNDP, the agreed channel for international support to the Pause Committees, and in coordination with the Henry Dunant Center (the Pause facilitator), OTI quickly provided infrastructural support in the form of hotel rooms for out of town committee and team members, office space, supplies and equipment and rented vehicles.

OTI also provided support to a local human rights NGO to do an initial province-wide publicity campaign about the details of the Pause Agreement and also its limitations, i.e. that it should not be considered a political solution to the conflicts within the province.

As the quarter drew to a close, OTI Medan/Banda Aceh staff were continuing extensive discussions with a wide variety of individuals and organizations to identify specific ways to support the Pause objectives of improved security and increased assistance to communities that have suffered through the long years of conflict in the province.

### C. Surabaya Grant Activities

The performance of the Surabaya regional office also improved greatly in the area of grant production, with 14 new grants being awarded (refer Appendix III). The value of the quarterly awards logically increased also over last quarter's, and the total value of grants awarded reached \$1,760,008 (refer Appendix IV). Total disbursements now stand at \$1,251,357 (refer Appendix V), and is a healthy 71% of total grants approved.

**Systems, Procedures and Miscellaneous** –SWIFT-Surabaya continued to enjoy excellent relations with the US Consulate staff. Regular briefings with consular staff are now conducted once per week or more, depending upon the situations in our mutual coverage provinces. The US Consul General travelled with the Regional Program Manager to Maluku early in the quarter, during which time they met with a number of stakeholders in the conflict zone. In addition, SWIFT-Surabaya and the US Consulate worked together in raising the profile of the Poso conflict with USAID and the US Embassy in Jakarta. The result was a new set of grants designed to respond to immediate needs in the region.

### **SUMMARY OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**Program Development** – During this quarter, the strategy of “decentralization” was continued. Nearly 70% of all new grants were for activities in the so-called “hotspot” regions of eastern Indonesia. The following is a synopsis of programmatic highlights by region and sector.

#### **Maluku**

Early in the quarter, return grantee Limpad was funded to carry out an assessment of the themes, messages and types of creative media that will resonate with Christian and Muslim communities in Maluku in an effort to quell the violence and return peace to the province. The outcome of the assessment was to be the design for a follow-on creative media campaign. However, a tense period of calm re-erupted into violence in Maluku during the past month, rendering OTI grantee activities impossible to implement inside the province.

In the face of these obstacles, Limpad demonstrated their resilience and creativity by relocating their media campaign assessment to IDP camps in Manado and Makassar in Sulawesi. In a mid-term report of results thus far obtained from the assessment, Limpad found that the level of resentment and a lack of willingness among victims of the violence in Maluku to reconcile with members of other religious groups remains extraordinarily high. So intense is the level of hatred that the refugees themselves have become provocateurs in their respective camps on the island of Sulawesi. This, in turn, has led to an even greater desire to remain in segregated communities, thus intensifying the cycle of hatred between the religious groups. Limpad is still hoping to discover themes that may form the basis for a campaign that will touch both religious groups in a positive and effective way. So far, the most prominent common theme has been that the Indonesian military and radical Muslim group Laskar Jihad must leave the region.

As the quarter ended, Limpad conducted their final analysis of the focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with Christian and Muslim IDPs to arrive at recommendations for follow-on activities.

Meanwhile, SWIFT-Surabaya remains engaged with potential grantees in the region. Two groups, the Christian-dominated LPPM and Muslim-based LAKPESDAM-NU, have demonstrated their interest in working together on clean-up campaigns in Ambon once calm is restored. In particular, these groups have garnered the support of the mayor of Ambon in cleaning up the Gedung Wanita, or Women's Building, a city-owned center where women and children of all faiths come together for mutual activities. The building is located in a neutral part of Ambon, allowing workers from both communities to come in on alternate days to clean up the structure. The activity has multiple impacts – it removes a persistent symbol of violence from view, it demonstrates forward progress in efforts to reconstruct Ambon, it keeps potential perpetrators of violence occupied and it gives both communities pride in having contributed to concrete efforts to restore a sense of normalcy to the citizens of Ambon. We anxiously await a return to the secure conditions in Ambon that will make this and other similar programs a reality.

## **West Papua**

In early April, SWIFT-Surabaya supported efforts to increase political transparency in West Papua by sponsoring grantee YPLHC to hold the first ever gubernatorial candidate debates and public dialogues. These were aired on national radio and regional television. Audience participants included members of the provincial legislature, students, NGO activists and the media. Public response to the debates was so overwhelming that YPLHC will seek to expand the activity to cover a wider range of issues.

The month of June opened with the convening of the Papua Peoples' Presidium Congress in Jayapura. Nearly all activity in the province screeched to a halt as delegates from around the region converged on the provincial capital of Jayapura to show their support for a free and independent Papuan nation. The Congress came to a close at the end of the first week in June and activities returned to normal shortly thereafter.

Realizing the sensitivity of sentiments raised during the Congress, SWIFT-Surabaya grantee YPLHC elected to temporarily suspend its series of radio and television broadcasts of gubernatorial candidate debates for the remainder of the month. However, the planned poll into the public's opinion of the selection criteria and mechanism for governor was carried out. The sample population was overwhelmingly in favor of an indigenous Papuan as governor. In addition, the public also favored a governor with at least a Bachelor's degree educational level, the holding of open gubernatorial candidate debates and a transparent system of selection. Interestingly, the public stated an overwhelming preference for someone from an NGO background (77.33%) as opposed to a religious or local customary group leader (2.10% and .10%, respectively). A further surprise was how the governor should be selected. Only 57% of the sample population

believed that the governor should be selected directly by the voting public while the remainder (43%) believed that the governor should be selected by the provincial legislature.

Following the poll came the announcement of 7 new candidates for governor, 3 leaders of the Papua Peoples' Presidium and the chairman and 3 vice-chairmen of the provincial legislature. It is noteworthy that these latter four individuals are directly or indirectly tasked with developing the procedure for the ultimate selection of the governor. YPLHC seized upon this apparent conflict of interest by holding two interactive radio dialogues between one of the vice-chairmen, a political scientist and the head of the most powerful NGO forum in the province.

Also during this past quarter, SWIFT-Surabaya sponsored two West Papua grantees, YABIMU and ELPMA-HAM, to conduct training in human rights investigation techniques. Using modules prepared by an earlier West Papua grantee, Yayasan Ngalum, the two new grantees carried out their programs simultaneously but in different locations. The grantees report that community awareness of what constitutes a human rights violation has sharply increased as a result of the activity, evidenced by the increased number of incidents reported to them. The field components were nearly complete by the end of June; we expect analysis and reports of the findings by mid-July.

### **West Timor**

In addition to Maluku, SWIFT-Surabaya funded efforts to reduce the potential for conflict in West Timor. Yayasan Alfa Omega (YAO), an NGO with a strong Protestant basis, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Greater Kupang, were each awarded a grant to carry out a joint conflict prevention training program and road show with community and religious leaders. This activity is aimed at reducing growing tensions between Roman Catholic East Timorese refugees and the largely Protestant communities in which the refugees are living. The road show activities came at the perfect time. During the month of June, tensions between East Timorese refugees and West Timorese community members exploded into violence at a refugee camp on the outskirts of Kupang. Although a sense of calm has returned to the region, the potential for continued conflict remains high.

In addition to the road shows, SWIFT-Surabaya funded YAO to conduct a media assessment for Nusa Tenggara similar to the one being carried out by Limpad for Maluku. Once again, the aim is to design a creative media campaign for peace that will resonate with Nusa Tenggara's diverse ethnic and religious groups.

During this past quarter, the Archdiocese of Greater Kupang continued their leafleting and radio programming to East Timorese refugee camps. The final edition of the leaflet was distributed in mid-month and the final radio broadcast was aired a week later. The Archdiocese is currently evaluating the impact of the activity to determine: a.) whether or not it should be continued, and b.) if continued, how it could be better designed to

encourage refugees to return to East Timor. One definitive impact was through the eyewitness reports delivered by Archdiocese church workers who had conducted visits to East Timor. The refugees tended to trust the veracity of these reports over those of others by virtue of the relationships built between the church workers and the refugees over these many months.

## **Good Governance**

In other parts of the eastern half of Indonesia, the SWIFT-Surabaya office continued to fund parliamentary strengthening and citizens' forums in an effort to institutionalize a culture of improving professionalism and constituent action and dialogue with elected representatives. New parliamentary strengthening programs were funded at the district level in East Java, East Nusa Tenggara (including West Timor) and West Nusa Tenggara, with follow-on programs for Central Java under development. In addition, citizens' forums in East Java, Central Java and West Nusa Tenggara were also funded and are now underway. In the case of East and Central Java, certain citizens' forums continue to be self-sustaining although OTI funding has ceased. This bodes well for the future sustainability of dialogue between constituents and legislators, particularly at the district level, in the upcoming era of regional autonomy.

## **Media Development**

The development of a free, fair and accurate media continued during the past quarter. Return grantee Indonesia Media Watch held a training program for newspaper editors and journalists throughout eastern Indonesia on reporting conflict in Indonesia's eastern hotspots. An outcome of the program was the formation of the Peace News Network (JBD), a virtual media center that can be accessed through the Internet. In addition to the larger JBD, participants from West Papua established a special network in order to map conflict that occurs in that province. The results of the mapping exercise will be shared with other JBD members and will be continuously updated.

In addition to training, OTI funded the Press Consumers' Board to carry out a critical survey and content analysis of the country's largest print media outlets in reporting on conflict. The results of this analysis will be used to identify the top three print media for receipt of the FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting) award later this summer.

## **Program Implementation**

Due to a very heavy workload, activities scheduling became even more critical and the staff's success in clustering activities to take place simultaneously in the same locations has meant that even greater economies of scale have been obtained. In addition,

assessment trips have also been timed to take place around activity dates, thus maximizing the human resource capacity in this regional office.

#### D. East Timor Grant Activities

There was a slowdown to normal levels of grant production in the quarter, with 16 new grants being awarded. This brought the total amount of grants produced in 8 months to an incredible total of 97 grants (refer Appendix III). The total value of these grants has already reached \$5.3 million, or almost as much as the total Jakarta grants (refer Appendix IV). The disbursements during the quarter (\$2,452,058) increased by seven times over the previous quarter; this represents the accounting department's increased handling of the backlog of receipts (refer Appendix V).

By far the Transitional Employment Program (TEP) dominated the grant work and implementation work during the quarter. This program involves more than 40 individual grants with different UNTAET entities throughout the country. In this program each of the 13 districts in the country receive \$94,000 for hand tools and construction materials, and \$100,000 for wages for temporary workers. Men and women participate in the program, rehabilitating schools, markets, roads, irrigation systems, rice paddies, recreational facilities and homes. This program was intended to last only for five months (February-June 2000), but because of its great success and impact on alleviating unemployment, it has been extended until 31 August 2000. The total program will have involved in-kind and cash disbursements of over \$4 million dollars when it is completed.

Another significant grant (almost \$250,000) that has been arranged in Bethesda and will be signed on July 1, 2000 is a grant with the International Organization of Migration. It will assist the Community Assistance for Population Stabilization (CAPS) project. The IOM will work closely with local population in six districts, providing TA, logistical support and materials for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of basic infrastructures. By linking with UNTAET's Community Empowerment Program, and working through organized groups such as local NGOs and churches, CAPS will contribute to strengthening local capacities and promoting the sustainability of transitional initiatives.

Other grants in East Timor are designed to address the unique condition of this new country on its long road to development. These will help NGOs to work productively in the areas of human rights, civic and political education, media promotion, skills training, conflict prevention, women's rights, student organizations and community-based recovery efforts.